(b) A rise in the death rate of birds was noticed in 1989-90.

(c) Casualty list for 1989-90 includes 158 munias which died in the zoo due to stress because of exhaustion. These munias were seized from unauthorised traders in Delhi in December, 1989.

(d) Following preventive measures have been taken to reduce casualties in the zoo:—

(i) Strict control on quality and quantity of food,

(ii) Better veterinary care,

(iii) Supply of filtered water for drinking purposes,

(iv) Improvement of animal enclosures,

(v) Better hygienic condition in the zoo.

Forest land on lease

382. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: *Will the* Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the joint sector companies, where Government hold 51 per cent is held share capital and 49 per cent is held by private industry, need prior approval of the Government of India before they can lease forest land as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) if so, whether Karnataka Pulpwood Limited had taken prior permission of the Government of India to take forest land on lease;

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take to implement the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(d) whether it is a fact that after the amended Forest (Conservation) Act has come into force i.e. since the 15th March, 1989, there has been a violation of the Act and 699 Hectares of forest land have been given to a joint sector company in Karnataka; and

(e) what action is contemplated according to the penal provisions by the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (MRS. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) (d) & (e) The case is subjudice.

Problems in the production of Main Battle Tank

383. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of the Arjuna the Main Battle Tank of India has run into major problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken by Government to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir. The production of the tank is expected to commence by 1992.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Closing down of small scale units producing ancillary items for TV

384. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small scale units producing components and ancillary items for TV manufacture in the country have closed down;

(b) if so, what is the number of such units and the number of workmen thrown out of employment as a result thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures have been initiated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No such information has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, there has been a marginal decline in TV production due to slackness in demand which has affected the units producing components and ancillary items for TV.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign coach for Indian Hockey Team

385. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to invite a foreign coach to train the Indian Hockey team for the Beijing Asian Games; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) While Government is favourably inclined to consider the possibility of engaging a foreign coach to train the Indian hockey team for the Beijing Games, no concrete proposal has yet been received from the Indian Hockey Federation.

Extinction of black buck

386. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether black buck in the country is facing extinction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to preserve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to preserve the black buck:—

(i) Black buck has been included in Schedule—I to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving it maximum protection under law.

(ii) National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries and closed areas have been established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to afford protection to the black buck and its habitat.

(iii) Trade and commerce of black buck and products derived therefrom, is prohibited.

(iv) Centrally sponsored schemes have been launched for the protection and development of national parks and sanctuaries, including those with black bucks, and for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Centrally sponsored scheme for engendering public awareness and involvement in nature conservation including the preservation of species like black buck has been initiated.

Threat from space Junk to Indian Satellites

387. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 10th April, 1990 under the caption 'space junk threat to astronauts', if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with USA and USSR to take steps to clear this junk which can be a threat to the satellites propose to be launched by India;